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PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World adopted at the Arab Population Conference, Amman, Jordan, 4-8 April 1993

Note by the Secretary-General of the Conference

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1991/93 of 26 July 1991, invited the regional commissions to convene meetings or conferences to review experience gained in population policies and programmes in their regions as part of their contribution to the preparatory activities for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

2. The Arab Population Conference, jointly organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was held at Amman, Jordan, from 4 to 8 April 1993. Annexed to the present document, in the languages of submission only, is the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World, which was adopted at that Conference.

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Annex

SECOND AMMAN DECLARATION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARAB WORLD, ADOPTED AT THE ARAB POPULATION CONFERENCE, HELD AT AMMAN FROM 4 TO 8 APRIL 1993*

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* Circulated in the languages of submission only.

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INTRODUCTION

The Arab world is contributing to the common efforts of the countries of the developing world in the quest for a cultural renaissance aimed at establishing the requirements of socio-economic development and enabling the Arab people to participate in the shaping of their destiny on their land now and in the future within a framework of justice, democracy and respect for human rights and to contribute to the endeavours of the international community to achieve peace, progress and prosperity.

In its efforts to achieve these goals, the Arab world is experiencing socio-economic changes and facing challenges, problems and dangers which make it necessary to mobilize the efforts, capabilities and potential of society and to satisfy the basic needs of the population within the framework of development.

In this connection, the last decade witnessed a decline in oil revenues, on which the Arab world depends heavily, the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War and the Gulf War, and continued tension in the region as a result of the failure to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Furthermore, the external debt crisis was exacerbated in a large number of Arab countries, producing its own effects and pressures. In addition, the world economic recession of the last decade and the tendency to create large economic blocs have adversely affected the Arab countries, as indicated by the decline of Arab export prices, the problem of the trend towards protectionism, fluctuations in exchange and interest rates in international money markets, return migration and the decrease in private remittances.

The population question constitutes a primary factor with dimensions interlinked with the various challenges and dangers. During the last four decades, the Arab region has undergone tremendous demographic changes, the most significant of which was remarkable population growth. The population of the Arab world increased from about 132 million in 1974 to about 237 million in 1992, a figure expected to reach 449 million in 2020 (according to United Nations estimates). All this has led and will lead to increased resource and environmental challenges.

This rapid and continuous increase in the population has necessitated the formulation of the requisite plans and policies to meet needs in regard to employment opportunities, education, health, housing, food and public services. The region has also witnessed a huge movement of labour among its various countries and also to countries outside the region. Consequently, the population question was closely linked to the economic and social aspects of development issues and to the interrelationship between development requirements, on the one hand, and the environment and the outside world, on the other.

In order to express the Arab point of view on the population question within the context of the interrelated development concerned with economic, social, cultural and environmental affairs, the Arab Governments welcomed the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in September 1994 at Cairo. In preparation for that Conference, the Arab Population Conference was held from 4 to 8 April 1993 at Amman in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

For all the assistance and support rendered in regard to programmes, policies and projects in the field of population in the Arab world, the participants in the Conference extend their gratitude and appreciation to the Arab Governments, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and all the international and regional bodies concerned with population issues. The participants also wish to express their gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for generously hosting the Arab Population Conference and for providing it with so much support and assistance.

On the basis of the principles, objectives and orientations that emerged at the Arab Population Conference with regard to population questions, the participating Arab delegations adopt the following declaration.

I. PREAMBLE

The Arab Population Conference,

Adhering to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the statutes of its specialized organizations and councils, as well as to the principles, objectives and policies set forth in pan-Arab and sectoral instruments and strategies,

Recalling the provisions of the Charter of Arab Economic Action adopted by the Arab kings and heads of State at the Eleventh Arab Summit Conference held at Amman in 1980, expressing their conviction that Arab men and women were both the instrument and the objective of development,

Adhering to the Charter of the United Nations, which seeks to promote humanitarian causes, guarantee human freedoms and needs and provide the basic requirements and conditions for a better life for mankind as a whole,

Recognizing the importance of achieving Arab comprehensive development that will satisfy the needs and aspirations of present generations, without jeopardizing the rights and aspirations of future generations, by mobilizing Arab resources, developing productive forces and satisfying the social needs, both material and moral, of the Arab person in the light of modern patterns of development appropriate for and protective of the environment,

Convinced that the Arab region, given its great human, natural and financial resources, as well as the elements of homogeneity of the Arab countries, namely language, heritage, common history, common destiny, and geographical location, possesses great potential for numerous forms of cooperation, coordination and joint Arab action in various development fields,

Believing that a just peace is an essential requirement for the realization of comprehensive development,

Believing also that the continued occupation by Israel of Arab territories constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to the achievement and maintenance of such peace,

Acknowledging the right of the Arab nation to live in security in its homeland and the right of each of its peoples to live in freedom, security and peace of mind in their respective countries,

Affirming the right of the Palestinian Arab people to rid themselves of the occupation and to establish their own independent State on their national soil and to resist such practices as settlement, expulsion, deportation, detention, repression, environmental destruction, dissipation of resources and denial of basic human rights, all of which obstruct their progress towards the realization of comprehensive development, and also affirming the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Acknowledging the influence of international economic relations on comprehensive development in the Arab States, particularly in the light of the termination of the cold war and the emergence of radical changes in the international order, and in recognition of the importance of equitable interdependence in such relations, and of the need to enhance and develop those relations to serve the goals of development and socio-economic progress in the various parts of the world,

Recognizing that the realization of Arab comprehensive development--given the need to take human development into careful consideration--will require that a balance be struck between the rights of the individual and society, bearing in mind that the success of the development process depends largely on the prevalence of an appropriate external climate,

Believing in the ability of the Arab person, enjoying democracy, social equality and human rights, and given objective conditions favourable to progress and effectiveness in development efforts, to confront the challenges and dangers facing the Arab world,

Acknowledging that the creation of those objective conditions requires a comprehensive evaluation of past development efforts and their achievements, and particularly an evaluation of human development efforts and of population conditions and policies in the countries of the Arab world in accordance with the development strategies adopted by Arab States and in Arab and international instruments,

Conscious that the past decade witnessed commendable efforts in population policies and human development in the Arab world, although those efforts fell short of the aspirations expressed in the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World adopted by the Regional Population Conference in the Arab World held from 25 to 29 March 1984,

Convinced that the countries of the Arab world have witnessed many new developments and changes over the past 10 years, which necessitated the formulation of comprehensive population policies integrated with overall Arab development in its various dimensions during the coming decade,

Aware that, in spite of the varying priorities of population policies from one Arab State to another, there is a need to formulate a clearly defined

Arab population strategy to ensure optimal utilization and distribution of human resources, integrated into development,

Believing that the Pan-Arab perspective can serve as a significant approach when addressing population issues and challenges in the Arab world,

Recognizing the importance of cultural and religious dimensions in determining population behaviour patterns,

Pursuant to the provisions of the World Population Plan of Action (Bucharest, 1974) and the recommendations of the Mexico Conference of 1984 designed to promote a more intensive and rapid implementation of that Plan, as well as the provisions of the World Conference on Women (Nairobi, 1985), the World Declaration on Children issued by the World Summit on Childhood (New York, 1990) and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992),

Pursuant also to the Amman Declaration on Population in the Arab World (1984), the Arab Declaration on Environment, Development and Future Prospects (Cairo, 1991), the Arab Plan for the Protection, Care and Development of Childhood (Tunis, 1992) and the resolutions of specialized Arab ministerial meetings, and on the basis of the achievements of the Arab world in the light of the principles and objectives contained in all those instruments,

Invoking United Nations resolutions (General Assembly resolution 47/176 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 93/1991, 37/1992 and 4/1993) concerning the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 5-13 September 1994) which emphasize that the question of population and sustained economic growth and sustainable development will constitute the overall topics of the Conference,

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Firmly establishes the following general principles for population policies:

1. Human development is the starting point of development efforts aimed at achieving a satisfactory quality of life in the Arab world, with all that this implies by way of socio-economic progress, justice, democracy and protection of human rights.

2. The family is the basic unit of society and it is therefore necessary to create all the appropriate conditions needed to preserve its integrity, raise its standard of living, protect its values and cohesion and provide its members with opportunities for a decent life.

3. Women, like men, play a crucial role in society. They do so not only as mothers but as essential factors in resource management, economic activity and national development. Development cannot be realized without ensuring women's participation therein, improving women's quality of life in all its aspects and securing the economic, social, educational, cultural, psychological and health conditions needed to enable them to play their role fully as citizens.

4. Children have a basic right to a healthy, happy and secure life through the provision of health care, modern education and other appropriate services and conditions.

5. The population issue is closely interrelated with socio-economic changes, the cultural environment and the political framework, and hence with the development process. Population variables are determined by the broader social environment, and the social, economic, cultural, political and environmental components of the actual conditions dictate the attitudes of individuals towards population dynamics, thereby determining population dimensions. Population variables, in turn, affect those dimensions at the national, regional and international levels.

6. An integrated approach to the population issue requires consideration of its various dimensions, such as population size and structure, growth rates, geographical distribution, national and pan-Arab security and other characteristics, as well as recognition of the fact that these dimensions interact and, consequently, should not be treated separately as isolated aspects in any population policy; it should also be recognized that these population dimensions are influenced by the processes of reproduction, mortality and internal and external migration.

7. In view of the special conditions in the Arab territories under Israeli occupation and the ensuing displacement and forcible migration of their population, the latter's population problems need to be addressed from a special perspective which gives priority to those dimensions that relate to steadfastness, national security, political considerations and the need to counter the aggressive demographic schemes of the occupation authorities.

8. One of the basic human rights recognized in the 1974 World Population Plan of Action is the right of couples to choose freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children. To enable them to exercise this right, they must have access to the necessary education, information and services. Present and future demand for family planning must be met. The Arab States should be called upon, regardless of their stand on population growth, to provide for family planning services as a basic human right of couples.

9. The Arab States which adopt a policy of modifying population growth rates should integrate population policies into the framework of national development plans.

10. Arab sustainable development depends on the levels of economic growth and social progress, including diversification of productive capacities and higher rates of production through reliance on the optimal rational utilization of material and human resources, as well as the development and use of environmentally safe technology; it takes environmental considerations into account in planning operations and in economic policies with a view to improving the quality of life for the present generations, without jeopardizing the rights of future generations, as well as achieving equitable distribution, creating job opportunities and satisfying the basic material and moral needs of Arab men and women.

11. Effective measures to overcome current population problems in the Arab world through diligent efforts to achieve development will be severely affected by the increasingly rapid and radical changes that have taken place on the world stage in recent years and which necessitate the adoption of a collective self-reliance strategy within the Arab world, as well as close cooperation with the developing countries. They also necessitate diligent efforts to change the status of the Arab economy in the present world economy with a view to attaining further self-reliance, mutual equitable interdependence and active and positive involvement in international economic relations.

12. Since some economic and social conditions in many Arab countries interact strongly with population problems, reforms are needed to rectify those conditions and the imbalances that they reflect. However, these reforms have economic and social dimensions that differ from one Arab country to another, and special attention must therefore be paid to the social effects of those reforms, disregard of which would be detrimental to human development as one of the kingpins of sustainable development.

13. Since the Arab economy forms part of the world economy and is affected by the changes and disruptions to which the latter is prone, there is a need to promote forms of inter-Arab and Arab-international cooperation, as well as endeavours to overcome international problems and restructure the world economy in such a way as to ensure greater North-South balance and equality in order to improve terms of trade.

14. The mounting indebtedness of some Arab countries tends to obstruct the implementation of population policies and programmes. Therefore, efforts should be made, in coordination with the creditor countries, to devise appropriate formulas for the rescheduling of debt servicing, particularly that of an inter-Arab nature, for purposes of investment for the benefit of these policies and programmes.

15. The industrialized countries are called upon to adopt policies aimed at the achievement of a better balance between the population size and resources of this planet by reducing the huge expenditures on armament and curbing excessive consumerism, which is squandering the resources of the entire world. They are also called upon to adopt more effective orientations in an effort to conserve resources, protect the environment and achieve a higher level of well-being for all mankind.

16. The population problems in the Arab countries might appear less acute if viewed from a pan-Arab perspective. This requires the formulation of an Arab population policy based on current conditions. It should seek solutions to population problems in each individual country within a comprehensive development framework. Such a policy should constitute a pan-Arab framework for the population policies of individual Arab countries.

17. Population growth is a factor in socio-economic development. Accordingly, population policies should be formulated not on an individual basis but rather within the context of an integrated development policy. Account should be taken of the periods of time needed to influence population variables. Population growth policies should therefore be based on the economic, social, cultural and health situation in each country.

18. A spirit of democracy, collective endeavour and individual initiative should be promoted and fostered in the life of the Arab person by respecting his will and his creative capacities under appropriate laws and legislation that ensure protection of his achievements and respect for his human dignity and rights.

III. OBJECTIVES

In the light of the preceding preamble and general principles, the Conference establishes the following objectives:

19. The formulation and implementation of integrated population policies, programmes and activities in the Arab countries within the framework of development efforts aimed at:

(a) Achieving appropriate population growth rates through provision of the services needed to attain national policy goals. In the case of countries wishing to reduce their population growth rates, this requires provision of the services needed to develop and enhance family planning and family protection services, including maternal and child health care, and the formulation of economic, social, health and education policies to help create the requisite climate in which couples will accept and react to these objectives;

(b) Reducing mortality rates to the lowest possible level, especially maternal, child and infant mortality;

(c) Reaching a geographical distribution of the population in keeping with the requirements of development and healthy environment by rationalizing urban growth and paying attention to rural areas in order to improve the quality of life.

20. The establishment of general principles to coordinate the population policies of the Arab countries, and the provision of the means for their implementation and monitoring. Endeavours should also be made to implement Arab agreements regulating the movement of labour among the Arab countries in such a way as to ensure maximum developmental benefits for both the Arab countries of origin and the Arab host countries, and grant priority to Arab labour in the latter.

21. Efforts should be made to counter the methods that Israel is employing to violate human rights, impose forced migration on the Palestinian Arab people and disrupt the natural course of life in the occupied Lebanese territories and in the occupied Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

22. The granting of high priority to human development through an enhancement of population characteristics in the context of population policy and its developmental aspects. Care should also be taken to meet the needs in regard to nutrition, health care, the eradication of illiteracy, the provision of means of education and endeavours to combat unemployment. There is a need to ensure a more equitable distribution of income, to combat poverty and to provide basic commodities and public services. Efforts should be made to

enhance the situation and status of women and improve child welfare, care of the disabled, arrangements for grass-roots participation and the protection of democracy and human rights.

23. To further sound religious orientations and understanding of population issues in general, and of the spacing of births in particular.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the principles set forth in this Declaration, and with a view to achieving the objectives contained herein, the Conference calls upon the Governments of the Arab States to observe the following guidelines:

A. Human development and its relationship to development

24. Population policies should be formulated within the framework of a comprehensive strategy for development, paying due regard to the mutual interaction among them.

25. Special attention should be paid to human development and the necessary resources should be allocated to its achievement in a manner consistent with population policies, since human development is an objective in itself. Resources should be allocated to achieve human development, especially in social sectors such as health, education, training, housing and healthy environment.

26. Regional non-governmental organizations and the private sector should be encouraged to play an increasing role in the achievement of population objectives and to contribute to the implementation of population policies.

27. Human development should be viewed as relating to human requirements, activities and aspirations, including production and distribution, culture and the arts, enjoyment of democracy, protection of human rights and participation by all male and female members of society in decision making.

28. Regard should be shown for considerations of justice and equal opportunity for the present and future generations and the right of each of them to enjoy the resources of the Arab world. This requires the ongoing development of such resources in a manner that meets the needs of the present generations without diminishing the possibility of meeting the needs of future generations: the welfare of the present generations should not be based on additional economic and environmental loans to be repaid by future generations.

29. The Palestinian people should be enabled to recover their freedom and sovereignty over their natural resources so that they can not only formulate a population policy in keeping with its national interests and consistent with their development aspirations but also implement real development projects, stressing their need for international protection.

B. Population, environment and development

30. There is a need for a more thorough understanding of the interrelationship between population, resources, environment and development. The conduct of

further research should therefore be encouraged with a view to developing such understanding, as well as new conceptual frameworks and appropriate analytical tools and indicators, and exchanging the findings of such research.

31. Data and information networks on environmental, population and development variables should be established to facilitate the decision-making needed for the achievement of compatibility among these variables within each individual Arab country. An Arab programme should be prepared to link these networks for the purpose of coordinating common population, environment and development issues among the Arab countries.

32. The environmental effects of new projects and activities must be examined as a basic components of the evaluation study of these projects and activities so that the phenomenon of worldwide industrial relocation does not lead to a concentration of pollutant industries in the third world, of which the Arab countries form part.

33. Pan-Arab development policies should be formulated to meet present needs, without prejudicing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. There is a need to speed up the implementation of the Arab sustainable development programmes approved by the Council of Arab Ministers for Environmental Affairs in 1991, the aim of which is to address the various environmental and natural resource issues in the Arab world, particularly land degradation and measures to combat all forms of environmental pollution.

34. Pan-Arab plans should be formulated to ensure the rational use of land, water and other resources and prevent their depletion and deterioration in order to promote human well-being.

35. Measures should be taken to combat poverty and unemployment and to improve the quality of life in urban and rural environments and industrial areas. Special priority should be accorded to the implementation of low-income housing schemes, the provision of clean water and sanitation in densely populated areas and the adoption of appropriate technologies to that end.

36. National non-governmental organizations should be involved in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in the field of population, development and environmental protection. These organizations should be given material, technical and administrative support, and their relations with official government institutions and international and Arab organizations in connection with the various development programmes and services that they undertake should be coordinated.

37. The Arab person should be protected through the promulgation of legislation and the adoption of the measures needed to prevent the use of the coastal land and territorial waters of the countries of the Arab region as a dumping ground for toxic wastes from the industrialized countries. Such dumping should be regarded as a violation of the principles of international relations, which call for respect for ethical concepts in such relations. Appropriate national control bodies should be established to monitor this matter in order to limit its long-term detrimental effects on individuals and the environment.

38. Efforts should be made to counter the policies of settlement, confiscation of land, demolition of houses, restriction of building permits, seizure of water resources, burial of dangerous wastes and cutting down of trees, which Israel has been pursuing in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1967.

C. Population distribution and urbanization

39. Special attention should be paid to policies aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas by promoting the economic, social and environmental dimensions of integrated rural development endeavours in such a way as to achieve population stability in these areas and curb rural-urban migration.

40. Facilities for production and life in small and medium-sized urban areas should be promoted in such a way as to secure the continued economic and social vitality of these areas, enable them to retain their populations and provide them with opportunities for development and population stability.

41. New sites for production should be located, whenever possible, away from present densely populated areas, within the framework of country planning, in order to achieve a better distribution of the population in the geographical area of the Arab countries and to achieve equitable and harmonious regional development.

42. Greater endeavours should be made to obtain reliable data on population movements, on factors associated therewith and on population needs through population censuses, socio-demographic surveys on migration and special migration and area studies.

43. Studies should be undertaken for the purpose of understanding the factors and motives underlying internal migration with a view to planning, implementing and evaluating population distribution programmes.

D. International migration

44. The Arab States should coordinate and cooperate in planning Arab labour mobility among them in order to maximize the benefit to both the sending States and the receiving States, giving consideration to the accordance of priority to the employment of Arab labour and endeavouring to implement bilateral and multilateral Arab agreements in this regard.

45. The Arab labour-sending countries should diligently endeavour to provide employment opportunities by diversifying their sources of production and formulating training and development plans and programmes to promote stability of their labour force in its country of origin.

46. There is a need to protect the human rights of Arab migrant workers and their families in the labour-sending and labour-receiving countries.

47. There is a need for international support for development endeavours in the labour-sending Arab countries in order to help to curb labour migration, particularly informal migration.

48. All possible Arab and international action and measures should be taken to put an end to hostile behaviour towards Arab migrants, particularly Maghrebis, to safeguard all their workers' and human rights and to regulate their situation within the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue.

49. Endeavours should be made to facilitate the integration of returning Arab labour in their societies of origin, to solve their problems and to integrate them in productive and social activity in their new areas of residence in such a way as to enhance their contribution to national development endeavours.

50. All ways and means should be adopted to protect migrants, refugees and persons forced to move by upheavals and wars, especially women and children. International support should be extended to the receiving countries in order to accommodate them until such time as they return to their home countries, especially if the host countries are among the least developed countries, with a view to easing the resulting burden placed upon them.

51. Arab and international cooperation plans and programmes should be formulated to support the Arab States that are suffering from the problem of an influx of refugees from neighbouring States.

52. Specialized studies on international migration should pay due regard to national priorities. Regional and international donors are called upon to support surveys, research and policies concerning external migration in the Arab countries in view of the developmental significance of such migration. The earlier recommendations concerning the need to provide the requisite support for the conduct of a world migration survey, along the lines of the world fertility survey, are reaffirmed.

53. The requisite Arab measures should be taken to secure the immediate cessation of all inhuman Israeli practices against the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese peoples, particularly those involving forced migration, deportation and violations of human rights.

54. Endeavours should be made to halt Jewish immigration aimed at bringing about radical changes in the region, including disruption of the demographic balance, as these changes constitute a direct and indirect danger to the occupied Arab territories through the intensification of settlement operations and exploitation of the resources of these territories for the benefit of the new immigrants; they also constitute a destablizing factor in the region.

55. International and Arab support should be provided for the Palestinian national economy in the occupied territories to help end its dependence on the Israeli economy; the productive sectors should be encouraged; Israeli exploitation of the markets of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip should be limited; the exploitation of workers from the West Bank and Gaza forced by deteriorating economic conditions in the occupied territories to work in the various economic sectors within Israel should also be limited.

E. Women, population and development

56. In view of the crucial importance of the role and status of women in development and their effects on demographic behaviour, age at marriage,

fertility, and infant, child and maternal mortality rates, policies and programmes should seek to improve the status of women as one of the goals of national development plans.

57. The Arab States that have not yet ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women are called upon to ratify and implement that Convention in a manner consistent with their domestic legislation. Efforts should also be made to develop legislation to improve the situation of women, particularly in regard to relations within the family, employment, social security, health insurance, pensions, maternity leave, appointments, job promotion opportunities and education, etc. Distinction should be made between mistaken social ideas and the accurate understanding of religion.

58. The reproductive role of women should in no way be used as a reason for limiting women's right to work, education and participation in public life.

59. Policies and programmes should be formulated to help to:

(a) Ensure the contribution of Arab women in regard to work in the various societal activities, at all levels in order to promote equality between women and men and provide the conditions and services that are conducive to such contribution;

(b) Increase the economic potential of women by providing them with opportunities for education, training, literacy programmes and employment in the various production sectors;

(c) Promote the participation of women in public life at all levels, including decision making;

(d) Provide an opportunity for women to exercise an informed choice regarding birth control and facilitate their access to the services necessary for that exercise.

60. There is a need to adopt programmes that accord priority to rural women, and the Arab countries should be urged to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women held at Geneva in 1992.

61. Efforts should be made, at the country and regional levels and through specialized centres, to establish an adequate database concerning the various aspects of the life of Arab women in order to facilitate research and in-depth studies to identify the everyday problems and difficulties with which they are faced, with a view to the formulation of policies and programmes conducive to the solution of such problems and difficulties and to the enhancement of their status and quality of life.

62. Support should be given to national non-governmental organizations, women's federations and associations concerned with women, population and development in order to help them to play their role in enhancing women's awareness so that they can contribute to development and participate in all spheres of life. Support should also be given to programmes of research,

studies and training concerning women and their role in development. Use should be made of Arab training and research centres for women, the activities of which should also be coordinated.

F. Maternal and child health and family planning

63. Programmes relating to maternal and child health (MCH) and family planning should be designed in such a way as to ensure:

(a) Acceptance of the question of family planning, in its broad sense, as a right of couples within the framework of its role in enhancing the various aspects of family health;

(b) The integration of family planning services into other family health services, including the expansion and streamlining of a system for the provision of MCH and family planning services, as well as health education programmes, within the framework of primary health care.

64. In Arab countries where fertility levels are high:

(a) Efforts should be made to set appropriate fertility and family planning targets consistent with the development goals of each country;

(b) Health and nutrition education activities related to MCH and family planning should be strengthened;

(c) The quality and accessibility of family planning services should be improved by arrangements for well-trained persons to respond to the needs of the beneficiaries and offer a wide choice of family planning services in keeping with the broader reproductive health needs of the population, including prenatal and postnatal care;

(d) The provision of an appropriate socio-economic environment for the achievement of reproduction rates consistent with the desired population growth rates.

65. There is a need to formulate and implement appropriate programmes to lower infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

66. Programmes should take full advantage of the potential contributions of NGOs, including women's NGOs, so that they can continue to support national programmes in the fields of MCH and family planning. In particular, greater use should be made of the resources, experience and expertise of local non-governmental organizations in order to strengthen their role. There is also a need to actively advocate the use of their services and improve the availability, social acceptability and effectiveness of family planning services.

67. Issues concerning Arab children should be accorded priority in development plans and the availability of child services should be increased, including health, nutrition and education services. Measures should also be taken to combat the phenomena of child labour and school drop-outs and public awareness programmes should be formulated to counter the phenomenon of sexual discrimination.

68. Information, education and communication (IEC) programmes should include MCH and family planning messages, with particular emphasis on the following:

(a) Agricultural extension programmes;
(b) Activities of professional and trade unions, cooperatives, etc.;
(c) Women's programmes and federations;
(d) Youth programmes for both sexes;
(e) Sexual and mental health programmes.

69. There is a need to upgrade management information systems (MIS), so that they can provide timely and high-quality information, and to adopt suitable strategies for the use of comprehensive, rapid and low-cost surveys for the purposes of appropriate monitoring and evaluation programmes. There is also a need for appropriate training to ensure the proper use of such information by MCH service providers and instructors.

70. Concerted efforts should be made to undertake relevant research on the improvement of reproductive and mental health and to put the findings of such research into practice through their incorporation in ongoing policies and programmes. There is a particular need to promote research on the socio-cultural factors that influence fertility and associated factors related to the use of methods of contraception and their incorporation in preventive health and MCH programmes in a manner consistent with socio-cultural and administrative conditions.

71. There should be closer inter-Arab cooperation in the manufacture, promotion and distribution of family planning aids. Use should be made of the experience gained by the Arab countries that have played a pioneering role in this field.

72. There is a need to relieve the sufferings of Palestinian families in the occupied territories, which are directly attributable to the practices of the Israeli occupation authorities and which have led to a deterioration in the standard of public health, a lack of MCH and family protection programmes and high mortality rates, particularly among infants and children.

G. Information, education and communication (IEC)

73. IEC programmes in the field of population should become basic components of national education and information systems.

74. IEC messages and curricula should be socially rooted and readily acceptable to the various population target groups, particularly in rural areas. Hence, these programmes and materials should be based on the results and findings of field research aimed at determining the values, attitudes and behavioural patterns needed to define the objectives and contents of effective IEC programmes and activities in the field of population.

75. IEC programmes should be designed within the framework of an integrated approach so that they can play a major role in facilitating the understanding of women's issues in order for women to make an informed choice regarding birth control and gain access to the requisite aids therefore, and also in promoting the status of women and their full participation in population and development affairs.

76. Population education should be more fully incorporated in all stages of formal and informal education with a view to stimulating awareness of population and development issues and promoting positive attitudes and rational behaviour among the target groups in regard to such issues, thereby achieving a balance between population and available material resources at the household and community levels.

77. When formulating and designing population communication programmes, due regard should be shown for the principle of integration and harmonization, i.e. the need to coordinate these programmes with a view to achieving their objectives in a manner consistent with their different materials, concepts and contents relating to the issues of population and development.

78. It is important to ensure the availability of human resources capable of playing their roles in IEC population programmes, which requires the training of personnel in this domain.

H. The role of national non-governmental organizations in the achievement of development

79. In view of the substantial Arab non-governmental contribution to development over the past two decades, and in the light of the growing Arab and international interest in the role of national non-governmental organizations in development, the Conference stresses the need to:

(a) Promote Arab coordination among national non-governmental organizations active in the field of population in the Arab countries and enable them to participate in country and pan-Arab programmes through the establishment of the requisite technical structures for that purpose;

(b) Strengthen the role of Arab national non-governmental organizations, as partners, in order to enable them to support and supplement government efforts to implement the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development in the Arab World;

(c) Invite Arab and international financing bodies and funds to provide financial support for projects implemented by Arab national non-governmental organizations in the field of population, environment and development;

(d) Invite international financing organizations, the United Nations, the European Community and international and regional agencies, bodies and funds to provide financial and technical support for Arab national non-governmental organizations and encourage their participation in regional and international meetings and conferences;

(e) Encourage the endeavours and initiatives that are being undertaken in the Arab region with a view to coordinating cooperation and interlinkage among Arab national non-governmental organizations between them, on the one hand, and official and popular bodies and regional and international organizations and agencies, on the other hand;

(f) Encourage the participation of representatives of national non-governmental organizations in official delegations to national, Arab and international conferences in view of the positive results of such participation;

(g) Support and finance training programmes and projects for the administrative and institutional development of Arab national non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing the performance of such organizations on an effective scientific basis.

I. Special categories

80. Special attention should be directed towards juveniles and young people through the provision of education, contemporary culture, arts, sports, and all forms of social welfare to protect them from falling prey to the dangers of addiction, violence and extremism. Young people should be provided with employment opportunities to combat unemployment among them.

81. Particular care and attention should be given to talented individuals through the formulation of special programmes to develop their potential in various fields.

82. Special protection should be afforded to special groups such as orphans, the homeless, foundlings, victims of disasters and wars and juvenile delinquents.

83. Special care should be given to elderly and aged men and women, and efforts should be made to facilitate their access to health and social services. The role played by the family and local community institutions in this regard should be intensified.

84. The population of the Arab world, particularly mothers, children, the elderly, and the sick should not be subjected to any negative or inhuman effects, contrary to human rights, as a result of political or any other decisions.

85. Special policies should be formulated to cater for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled members of the population, including provision of the resources required for health infrastructure and personnel and of the appliances and equipment needed to enhance their quality of life and integrate them in society.

J. Structural adjustment and population policies

86. In order to unleash development forces, including manpower, it will be necessary to pay special attention to raising real economic growth rates, correcting structural imbalances in the Arab States and formulating appropriate policies with due regard for the maintenance of a balance between country-specific economic, demographic, and social considerations.

87. The adjustment policies applied by some Arab States are having recessionary and other detrimental consequences, such as a reduction in public spending on social services and abolition of subsidies, which have had adverse

effects on human development, increased unemployment and lowered the standard of living. Therefore, economic policy should focus on giving priority to social services, particularly in the field of health and education. The cost of such policies must also be distributed among all social categories and groups, in accordance with their respective ability to bear such costs and with due regard for the principle of social justice and for the circumstances of each Arab State. Population development policies must be consistent with adjustment policies in order to avoid any increase in the adverse effects of adjustment.

88. The Arab world possesses enormous potential resources, material and non-material, which could be used for purposes of economic reform and sustainable development through inter-Arab cooperation in order to alleviate the burdens resulting from structural adjustment policies and achieve human development.

K. Data, research, exchange of information and training

89. Efforts should be made to develop an integrated system of population censuses, civil registration procedures, household surveys, in-depth studies and other related sources of data with a view to providing high-quality and timely information for population policies and monitoring, supporting national agencies responsible for the provision of such data. The Arab States should be called upon to undertake periodic population censuses on the understanding that expertise and support will be provided by regional and international sources to those countries lacking the material and technical means to achieve that end.

90. The availability of the technical skills needed for the collection, processing and analysis of population data must be ensured. In this connection, efforts should be intensified to train and upgrade national technical capabilities at all levels in order to achieve maximum benefit from the utilization and application of modern data-management technologies.

91. Research programmes should be undertaken and coordinated to study the principal population issues and their relationship with environment and development. In particular, heavy emphasis should be placed on the promotion of specialized research on population measures and policies. The Arab States should be urged to attach high priority to population research, to provide material and technical support for country and pan-Arab statistical agencies, and to establish, support and strengthen population research centres.

92. The establishment and maintenance of modern database systems, both numerical and bibliographic, should be encouraged at the country and regional levels in order to disseminate population data and information more efficiently and effectively and to ensure coordination among them.

93. There is a need to encourage the exchange of technical expertise and visits among national governmental and non-governmental parties engaged in research, training and programmes relating to population activities in the Arab countries.

94. Endeavours to standardize the definitions and terminology used in population research in the Arab world should be supported in order to ensure data comparability.

95. The Palestinian people should be enabled to undertake a general population and housing census in the occupied territories and to establish a national statistical department there in view of the inaccuracy of Israeli statistics.

L. Arab and international cooperation

96. International cooperation within the framework of the United Nations system has to continue to provide technical and financial support for population activities to assist the Arab States in their efforts to achieve population and development goals.

97. ESCWA and the League of Arab States are called upon to increase and expand the scope of their contributions to a closer understanding of Arab population issues and to promote regional cooperation in the field of population.

98. Support should be given to UNFPA to enable it to play a leading and effective role in providing assistance in the field of population policies, programmes and projects in the broader sense. States Members of the United Nations are invited to make financial contributions to UNFPA in a manner commensurate with the increasing needs of population projects.

99. UNFPA is requested to intensify its support for population programmes and activities in the Arab region through bilateral and regional mechanisms in order to:

(a) Expand and enhance its technical cooperation programmes with each Arab country, especially the least developed among them, with a view to helping them to address their population problems, deal with the causes of those problems and implement their population policies effectively;

(b) Intensify its cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Africa, and the League of Arab States in order to support their ongoing endeavours to implement regional population programmes and projects;

(c) Maintain and increase its efforts to provide technical support for national population programmes and projects through the newly-established Country Support Team/Regional Office for the Arab States;

(d) Resume its activities in Lebanon and finance population activities as part of the process of reconstruction, including data collection and the preparation of population studies and policies aimed at restoring normal life in Lebanon;

(e) Support the efforts of those countries that have achieved good results in the field of population policies, in order to enable them to continue the implementation of their programmes and safeguard their achievements in this field;

100. International and Arab organizations should support the efforts of regional training centres and should utilize their expertise and capabilities.

101. Donor States, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations are urged to mobilize additional resources to assist the Arab countries in achieving their national population goals, particularly in the least developed Arab countries, since the emerging population issues in the region will become more diverse and complex in the coming decade. Every effort should be made to reach the target of $US 9 billion for world-wide population activities from all sources--domestic and international--by the year 2000.

102. Emphasis should be placed on the role of Arab funds in financing country and regional projects and research relating to population activities within the framework of the development plans of the Arab countries and joint Arab action, as well as the role of those funds in supporting research and training institutions in the fields of population statistics and planning.

103. The Arab States are called upon to formulate plans and programmes based on the present Declaration and to establish a mechanism for their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. In order to achieve that, emphasis is placed on the need for the provision of technical and material services by UNFPA, ESCWA, the League of Arab States, Arab and international funds and other Arab and international federations and financial institutions.

104. Support should be given to the endeavours of the secretariat of the League of Arab States in the field of population surveys and studies. Its coordinating role among Arab bodies active in the field of population should be strengthened and its activities should be supported in order to enable it to meet the needs of joint Arab action in the field of population and to continue its monitoring and implementation of the recommendations of the Arab Population Conference.

105. Support should be given to the endeavours of ESCWA in socio-economic development fields, particularly in regard to population issues. Arab and international funds, and especially UNFPA, are invited to provide ESCWA with the support required to enable it to play its role fully in the field of population.